

Executive Registry  
S-0956/4

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JUN 1 1956

Dear Bill:

In response to your letter attaching a memorandum setting forth the views of Dr. Turnwald of the German Embassy with respect to RFE, I am sending you the attached background detail prepared by my staff on the basis of facts available to us. I hope that this information, on a rather complex situation, will help put in perspective the remarks of Dr. Turnwald.

I appreciate your having passed this memorandum on to me and welcome any further comments you may have.

Very sincerely,

DULLES

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enclosure

CONCUR:

STAT

Honorable William H. Jackson  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

C/IO:CMJr:jl (3 April 1956)

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W. H. Jackson

W. H. Jackson

STAT

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry  
8-0856

March 27, 1956

Dear Allen:

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed memorandum setting forth the views of Dr. Turnwald, a German Embassy official, concerning Radio Free Europe.

Turnwald's remarks serve to point up some of the problems we are faced with in connection with RFE.

Very sincerely,

*Bill*

William H. Jackson  
Special Assistant  
to the President

Enclosure

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington 25, D. C.

SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1956

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Views of German Embassy Official Concerning Radio Free Europe

I lunched yesterday, at his request, with Dr. Turnwald, Soviet affairs expert of the German Embassy whom I had known previously when I was in the USSR Section of the Department. Mr. Reinkemeyer, a German representative at the UN who is soon to be assigned to Moscow, and Mr. Blake of the USSR Section, were also present at the luncheon.

Dr. Turnwald, referring to earlier conversations regarding the Free Europe Committee (FEC) and Radio Free Europe (RFE), spoke at some length on questions pertaining to these organizations, along the following lines:

Turnwald felt that RFE and the FEC have not taken sufficient account of the new situation in which West Germany is a sovereign state. RFE was set up during the occupation and seems to continue to function as if Germany was still occupied. The FEC people tend to lack appreciation of internal German political pressures which are forcing the German Government to seek a new relationship with RFE. In this connection, Turnwald mentioned several times the interpellations in the Bavarian Landtag last fall on the subject of RFE. He said that the texts of these interpellations had been made available to the American Embassy in Bonn and that they deserved the closest study by the U. S. Government.

Turnwald said that, while he and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appreciate that RFE is a private organization, this distinction is not understood by most German politicians and by the German public. They regard RFE as an American organization which is sponsored and approved by the U. S. Government, and for whose activities the U. S. Embassy in Bonn is responsible, as the representative of American interests in West Germany.

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Turnwald said there had been particular difficulties with RFE broadcasts to Poland and Czechoslovakia. Several years ago, the RFE Polish broadcasts spoke frankly in favor of maintaining the present German boundaries along the Oder-Neisse line. Now nothing is said at all about the eastern boundaries, but many German politicians feel that the RFE Polish employees still favor the Oder-Neisse line, although they are lying low at the moment.

The question of Sudetenland creates a problem with regard to RFE broadcasts to Czechoslovakia, and there is considerable feeling in Germany that pro-Benes elements dominate the RFE Czech section.

Turnwald thought that there were no particular difficulties concerning RFE broadcasts to the other satellite areas. There is one general question, however, which agitates Germans in connection with the RFE broadcasts. That is that the broadcasts do nothing to dispel the fear of a resurgent Germany in the satellite countries. There is, in fact, a new German policy of reconciliation with the peoples of Eastern Europe and the German Government is actively promoting such reconciliation among refugee groups from these areas now in West Germany. RFE should speak more of this policy.

Turnwald felt sure that differences over RFE could be resolved. He believes that the broadcasts must continue, since they represent an important anti-communist instrument. However, he strongly implied that increased German influence and participation in the policy control and direction of the RFE programs would be needed before the situation became satisfactory from the standpoint of the German Government.

Turnwald said that the American Government should realize that the problem of RFE is a serious one and that it will become increasingly so unless steps are taken urgently to rectify it.

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he would be in Bonn himself during the next few weeks and that he hoped that he would be in a position to put FEC officials in contact with important German politicians.

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In answer to my question, Turnwald said that he knew of no problems in connection with the operations of the American Committee for Liberation from Bolshevism and its broadcasting station, Radio Liberation. He said there seemed to be no difficulties regarding the line used by Radio Liberation toward the USSR, and he implied that there was better political liaison with Bonn on the part of Radio Liberation than is the case with RFE.

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